Fourth Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

NPT/CONF.IV/23
22 August 1990

Original: ENGLISH

Geneva
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LETTER DATED 20 AUGUST 1990 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF CAMBODIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS OFFICE IN GENEVA TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE FOURTH REVIEW CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE TREATY ON THE NON-PROLIFERATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the letter dated 6 July 1990, of H.E. Mr. Thiounn Prasith, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Permanent Representative of Cambodia to the United Nations in New York, addressed to H.E. Mr. Arpad Prandler, Provisional Secretary-General of the Fourth Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, rejecting categorically the so-called accession of the so-called "People's Republic of Kampuchea" to the above-mentioned Treaty.

I should be most grateful if you could arrange for this letter to be circulated as soon as possible as an official document of the Fourth Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

Annex

LETTER DATED 6 JULY 1990 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF CAMBODIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS IN NEW YORK TO THE PROVISIONAL SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE FOURTH REVIEW CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE TREATY ON THE NON-PROLIFERATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to draw your attention to the distortion appeared in the Appendix to Annex IV entitled "Cost-sharing formula for the Fourth Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons" as contained in document NPT/CONF.IV/1 where reference is made to Cambodia as well as to the so-called "People's Republic of Kampuchea" (pages 29 and 31).

The National Government of Cambodia (NCC), the sole and legitimate Government of Cambodia recognized by the United Nations, categorically rejects and deeply regrets the reference to the so-called "People's Republic of Kampuchea" as a "State Party to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons" as appeared in the afore-mentioned cost-sharing formula. In this regard, it should be underlined as follows:

1. The so-called "People's Republic of Kampuchea" came into being only after the invasion and occupation of Cambodia, almost 12 years ago. It was installed by Viet Nam in order to deceive the Cambodian people as well as the world community into believing that its aggression and occupation war is nothing but a civil war. So far it has survived only thanks to the support of hundreds of thousands of Vietnamese forces, advisers and cadres who are actually directing the administrative apparatus of that régime at all levels. That is the reason why Viet Nam and that Phnom Penh régime have strongly opposed the sending of an effective United Nations International Peace-Keeping Force to Cambodia to verify the complete withdrawal of the Vietnamese forces from Cambodia as called for by the overwhelming majority of the United Nations Member States and the Five Permanent Members of the United Nations Security Council in their efforts to find a comprehensive political settlement of the Cambodian problem.

2. The Vietnamese-installed régime in Phnom Penh can in no way represent the Cambodian people and Cambodia. Although some States Parties to the Treaty are not Members of the United Nations, the so-called "People's Republic of Kampuchea" should, by no means, be considered as a "State". The reference to the so-called "People's Republic of Kampuchea" as a "State Party" could be well exploited by Viet Nam who has been anxious, for almost 12 years already, to entice the world community into accepting the fait accompli of its invasion and occupation of Cambodia.

For the last 11 years, Viet Nam has used every means, military, political and diplomatic manoeuvres in order to impose the recognition of its installed régime as a legitimate government of Cambodia in the same way as the National Government of Cambodia. At present, having perceived the futility of its military power, it has resorted to diplomatic stratagem aimed at making people believe that there are "two governments, two administrations, two zones, two States" in Cambodia. Should Viet Nam and its supporters succeed in this manoeuvre, Cambodia would meet her tragic fate of being partitioned in two, and the numerous treaties, conventions and accords prepared by Viet Nam and

READEX

signed by the Phnom Penh réqime would become valid with all political, juridical and social consequences detrimental to the independence, unit and territorial integrity of Cambodia.

Therefore, the insertion of the so-called "People's Republic of Kampuchea" among the list of States Parties in the cost-sharing formula will only hamper the noble efforts made by the ASEAN countries, the United Nations Secretary-General and the Five Permanent Members of the United Nations Security Council aimed at bringing about a just and comprehensive solution to the Cambodian problem and guaranteeing "the independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity and inviolability, neutrality and national unity of Cambodia" (A/45/293).

3. In accordance with Article IX of the Treaty, the Depositary States are under obligation to inform all States Parties of the deposit of any instrument of ratification or accession. It is regrettable to note that, in this respect, the National Government of Cambodia, a State Party to the Treaty since 1972, and other States Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons have not been aware of the so-called "People's Republic of Kampuchea" being "party" to the Treaty.

4. The NGC appeals to all peace- and justice-loving countries which are States Parties to the Treaty to do their utmost to foil this Vietnamese manoeuvre by demanding the deletion of the so-called "People's Republic of Kampuchea" from the cost-sharing formula being submitted by the Preparatory Committee of the Fourth Review Conference. In effect, the reference to the so-called "People's Republic of Kampuchea" would not only compromise the successful conduct of the forthcoming Conference but also run counter to the Charter and practices of the United Nations.

I should be most grateful if you could arrange for this letter to be circulated immediately to all States Parties to the Non-Proliferation Treaty as part of the preparatory works for the Fourth Review Conference.

Fourth Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

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LETTER DATED 10 AUGUST 1990 FROM THE HEAD OF THE FRENCH DELEGATION TO THE FOURTH REVIEW CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE TREATY ON THE NON-PROLIFERATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS, ADDRESSED TO THE PROVISIONAL SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE CONFERENCE

I have the honour to transmit a paper which France, having applied for observer status at the Fourth Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, would like to have circulated as an official document of the Conference in accordance with the rules of procedure.

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ANNEX

1. France, which did not sign the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons but solemnly declared to the United Nations General Assembly in 1968 that it would in future behave in that regard exactly like States that did choose to accede to it, has decided to respond favourably to the invitation addressed to it to send an observer to the Fourth Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty to be held in Geneva from 20 August to 14 September 1990.

2. By so doing, France - which with its main partners is engaged in rigorous efforts to combat the risks of the spread of nuclear weapons - intends to demonstrate its keen interest in the important international discussions that will take place at the Conference, in particular given the prospect that the States parties will hold a conference in 1995 to determine the future of the Treaty itself, 25 years after its entry into force.

3. Being thus fully and directly informed as to the views of the various members of the international community in this very delicate area, France will continue to work for the broadest possible consensus in favour of an equitable and stable non-proliferation régime based, in part, on the necessary balance between the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons and the development of civil applications of the atom.

4. In a world context of steep population growth, increasing energy needs and growing concern for environmental protection which may lead to greater reliance on nuclear power throughout the world. The legitimate needs of countries wishing to acquire nuclear electricity-generating capacity cannot in fact be met without introducing stringent safeguards against the risk of the spread of weapons.